

Military Resistance 9H15



**Resistance Celebrates Afghan
Independence Day With Attack On
British Government Building:
“The Attack Came On The Day That
Afghans Commemorate A 1919
Treaty In Which The British Empire
Recognized The Full Independence
Of Afghanistan’s Kings”
“The Bombs Shattered Windows
Hundreds Of Yards Away”**

Aug. 20 Bloomberg L.P. [Excerpts]

Taliban guerrillas disguised as women attacked a British cultural center in Kabul, killing eight people and injuring 22, as Afghans marked their country’s full independence from Britain.

Two early morning car bomb explosions jolted Kabul yesterday and raised a column of black smoke from the compound of the British Council, a U.K. government-backed cultural and educational organization.

Four Afghan police, along with two Afghan and two foreign security guards employed by the center, were killed in the attack, the Afghan Interior Ministry said yesterday in an e-mailed statement. None of the three British nationals involved were hurt, the U.K. Foreign Office said.

“Some insurgents managed to enter the compound after the first bomber detonated a small truck packed with explosives in the entrance gate,” Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Siddiqi said in a phone interview. A second explosion occurred as police surrounded the compound.

A New Zealand special forces soldier died on his way to the hospital after being shot in the chest by an insurgent while attempting to free people trapped in the council buildings following the attack, Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Rhys Jones told reporters in Auckland today.

The four men were dressed in Burqas and wearing explosive vests and the battle started as they entered the compound, the ministry said. The attackers barricaded themselves inside the building and two were shot dead and two others blew themselves up after an extended firefight. The two other members of the six-strong insurgent team died when they detonated the car bombs.

The Taliban movement “targeted the British Council to mark our independence day,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed said in a phone interview.

The attack came on the day that Afghans commemorate a 1919 treaty in which the British empire recognized the full independence of Afghanistan’s kings, after years of military and political efforts to make Afghanistan part of the British Empire.

The bombs shattered windows hundreds of yards away in Kabul’s Kart-e-Parwan district, including at the home of a former foreign minister and presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah, said Ali Farhad Howaida, an aide to Abdullah.

Two British female English language teachers were in the building with their bodyguard and locked themselves in a secure room, Martin Davidson, chief executive of the British Council, told reporters in London.

Davidson said the Council, which had been taken by “complete surprise” by the attack, will continue with its educational work in Afghanistan.

MORE:

New Zealand Soldier Killed During Attack On British Building In Kabul

August 20, 2011 By Alastair Bull, AAP

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key says he accepts full responsibility for the deployment of NZ troops in Afghanistan but he sees no need to end their service early after the death of an SAS soldier.

The soldier died during an operation to rescue hostages at the British Council cultural centre who had been attacked by the Taliban on the 92nd anniversary of Afghanistan's independence from Britain.

He was shot in the chest by an insurgent and died en route to hospital.

Lt Col Jones said the compound was attacked about 5.40am local time. A British unit responded but could only isolate the area, and the CRU was authorised to deploy about 8.20am and the SAS team about the same time.

"The focus of our SAS team was to rescue the UK members who were still on the compound, whereas the CRU was focusing on eliminating the terrorists," Lt Col Jones said. "At its peak, 100 CRU members were deployed so this was quite a significant fight."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Convoy Attacked In Baghdad

19 Aug 2011 Reuters

BAGHDAD - A U.S. convoy was targeted in the Mansour district, west-central Baghdad, on Wednesday night, but the attack was ineffective and there were no casualties or damage, the U.S. military said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

Resistance Action

17 Aug 2011 Reuters & 19 Aug 2011 Reuters & 19 Aug 2011 Reuters

KIRKUK - Two roadside bombs targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen, in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police sources said.

MOSUL - Armed men threw a hand grenade at an Iraqi army patrol and wounded two soldiers, in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol escorting a judge's convoy killed one policeman and wounded another in eastern Mosul, a police source said.

KIRKUK - Insurgents opened fire on a police lieutenant colonel and seriously wounded him in northern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

KIRKUK - A sticky bomb attached to the car of a police major exploded, wounding him and his wife in northern Kirkuk on Thursday, a source at the Kirkuk police information centre said.

MOSUL - An off-duty soldier was killed and three others were wounded when insurgents opened fire on their car in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents stormed police officers's houses in Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of Baghdad, killing one police officer and wounding two civilians, late on Wednesday, a police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a convoy of a police officer, killed one policeman and wounded another on Wednesday, in Baghdad's eastern al-Ghadir district, a police source said.

TARMIYA - A car bomb targeting the house of Brigadier Tawfiq Ahmed, the police chief of Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, killed two of his bodyguards and wounded seven people on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday: Nationality Not Announced

August 19, 2011 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan yesterday.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Friday: Nationality Not Announced

August 19, 2011 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

**Making The New York Times
“Despite The Fact That Our Country Is In
The Midst Of The Greatest Financial
Crisis It Has Been Involved In Since The
1930s, And Cannot Even Begin To Afford
The Financial Cost Of These Wars, There
Is No Military Cost Greater Than Those
Of The Lives Like That Of My Friend’s”**

August 10, 2011 By Ryan Boldrey, Our Colorado News

An old friend of mine made the front page of the Sunday New York Times.

His name wasn't actually in print, because all of the families had not yet been contacted.

But he was one of the 22 Navy SEALs who died in what is being called the largest single loss for American troops in the 10 years of these Godforsaken wars.

It was also without a doubt the single biggest loss felt in my hometown of Petoskey, Mich., throughout the duration of these long, drawn-out wars that have many people questioning what we are even still doing fighting.

Due to his own personal wishes that if something like this ever happened, he had requested that no media coverage memorialize his individual death even if it was in the form of a glowing tribute.

So after being contacted by close friends and family members, the local paper and TV stations in my hometown nixed all the stories that they were working on.

As well, after a few days a lot of the tributes that had gone up on Facebook in his honor were pulled down in respect to his family.

For this reason, I will not mention him by name, but I will tell a little about him.

He graduated one year behind me in high school. We grew up playing sports together.

He was one of those people whose friendship saw no boundaries when it came to lines that cliques tend to draw in the sand — especially at that age.

And he exhibited real friendship to all. You know, all those things people tend to say when they look at the good in an individual, usually when someone dies.

But this really was who he was. And for those reasons, it sort of made sense that he wound up where he did.

In 16 years of service, he went out on top, as part of the most elite class of warriors our military has, sacrificing his own life for what he believed was for the greater good of everyone back home. He always exhibited passion and commitment at everything he did. And he wound up defending an entire country at the greatest cost of all.

Sadly, as with so many things these days, I found out through social media — eulogies busily pouring out of the finger tips of a great number of my friends the night before the New York Times and every other major Sunday paper in the country ran a story on their front page.

Without question, he is missed by many. It's indeed truly amazing how the loss of one person affects so many.

This is something, though, that I have become well-versed in again as of late.

He was, after all, the fourth person I've known in a period of four weeks to leave this earth at too young of an age.

He is the only one, however, who did not die of a terminal disease or natural causes.

War, my friends, is not a natural cause.

Now, the last thing I want to do is detract from the service that my friend gave our country, or that anyone else has for that matter. I respect anyone who is brave enough to don the uniform for the United States of America.

But as we look at the conflicts that we are currently involved in, specifically in Afghanistan — a country no longer even considered a terror threat to the U.S. — as well as the fact that our military receives as much money as the next 15 largest militaries in the world combined, perhaps it is time we consider going home.

After all, despite the fact that our country is in the midst of the greatest financial crisis it has been involved in since the 1930s, and cannot even begin to afford the financial cost of these wars, there is no military cost greater than those of the lives like that of my friend's.

**“Long Before The Deadly Crash
Aug. 6, Military Officials Were
Well Aware Of The Risks
Rocket-Propelled Grenades
Pose To Helicopters”**

**“There Have Been More Than 375
Rotorcraft Losses, With More Than
500 Fatalities Since October 2001”**

**“The Majority Of Hostile-Fire Losses
Are Attributable To Rocket-Propelled
Grenades And Man-Portable Air
Defense Systems”**

**“Insurgents Were Eager To Shoot Down
‘High-Payoff Targets,’ Specifically
Chinooks”**

August 22, 2011 By Cid Standifer and Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

Long before the deadly crash Aug. 6, military officials were well aware of the risks rocket-propelled grenades pose to helicopters.

According to numerous sources, there have been more than 375 rotorcraft losses, with more than 500 fatalities since October 2001, the Joint Aircraft Survivability Program Office stated in a report to Congress last year.

Precise numbers are unavailable due to their sensitivity; however, the authors of the JASO report have said subsequently that the majority of hostile-fire losses are attributable to rocket-propelled grenades and Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, which are infrared-guided, shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles.

RPGs can be purchased on the black market for as little as \$150.

The controversial WikiLeaks database, released last year, has several field reports about helicopter attacks.

“Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone from an undisclosed location,” a WikiLeaks-reported February 2007 field memo from the public affairs office of Combined Joint Task Force 82 quoted news sources as saying, “Taliban spokesman Yosuf Ahmadi said the helicopter was hit with a missile. He said the chopper was attacked in Helmand Province, but it came to the ground in Shah Joy district of Zabol. Ahmadi boasted of more such attacks as he said the Taliban had procured anti-aircraft missiles.”

Another Jan. 17, 2009, Task Force Thunder report in the Wiki-Leaks documents warned that insurgents were eager to shoot down “high-payoff targets,” specifically Chinooks.

In spite of the relative risks, the powerful and fast CH-47 has risen above its origins as a cargo helicopter to become the aircraft of choice for transport, air assaults and cargo missions in Afghanistan due in large part to its superior ability to fly at high altitudes and its versatility, Army officials said.

According to Schloesser [retired Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, the former director of Army aviation in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff] a veteran Chinook and special operations pilot, it is normal for a special operations unit to use a CH-47, adding that the concentration of troops in a single aircraft was also normal.

“You’re trying to put the right kind of combat power on the objective and get them out of there as fast as possible,” he said. “Just because the Chinook’s big doesn’t mean it isn’t fast and easy to maneuver.” The CH-47’s cavernous interior and its superior power margins would have allowed a large number of troops to gather on the battlefield at once. By contrast, several Black Hawks would have been more vulnerable as each added and extracted troops, Schloesser said.

Chinooks and Black Hawks are equally vulnerable as they land because they must do so slowly, Schloesser said. He referenced the infamous loss of a special operations helicopter during 1993’s Battle of Mogadishu as an example.

“Go back to Mogadishu and ‘Black Hawk Down,’ and a hovering aircraft, or one trying to put down fast-ropers is pretty darn vulnerable to RPGs, especially when they’re massed,” he said.

To mitigate risk, forces in Afghanistan have stayed away from routine supply schedules for fear that insurgents would use them to predict arrival times and attack.

“Our tactics, techniques and procedures stop them at a large rate, but we can’t stop all of them,” said

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

Resistance Action

8.17.11 Reuters & August 18, 2011 VOA News & 20 August 2011 TOLONews

KABUL - Four guards for a private security company were killed in a firefight with Taliban insurgents in the central Ghazni province, said Dawlat Khan, the head of the Watan Risk Private Security Company, where they worked.

KABUL - A missile landed in the centre of the capital Kabul in the early hours of Wednesday morning, hurting no one, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

At least two Afghan troop was killed and 12 others were wounded in a mine blast in western Herat province, local officials said. The blast happened at 7:00 am local time as Afghan forces were passing the area and a mine exploded in Kalab area of Herat city, Sayed Aqa Saqib, police chief told TOLONews reporter.

Three Afghan policemen were killed in a roadside bomb blast in western Herat province on Friday morning. The incident happened when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Shindand district of Herat, Muhaiyuddin Noori, spokesman for Herat governor told TOLONews reporter. Four other policemen were wounded in the incident, and were taken to a nearby hospital in the city, he added.

Two security guards were killed when a bomber detonated a truck full of explosives outside a U.S.-run provincial reconstruction team base in Gardez, in the eastern province of Paktia. Several others were injured in the blast. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying a 70-year-old militant carried out the bombing.

Collaborator Cops And Soldiers Kill Each Other

August 18, 2011 VOA News

Local officials in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province say a shootout between Afghan army and police officers Wednesday evening left three officers dead and at least five civilians wounded in the crossfire.

Afghan officials say they are investigating the cause of the fight.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**





ARLINGTON, VA - AUGUST 09: The funeral of Army Spc. Jordan C. Schumann of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, at Arlington National Cemetery. Spc. Schumann, who was assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, died July 5 in Paktia province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered from an improvised explosive device. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

GOT AN OPINION?

Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

**“Its Hateful And Evil”
“It’s Our Assertion That Sgt.
Kirkland Did Not Kill Himself”
He Was Killed By “The Chain Of
Command Who Exhibited Such
Callous Disregard For His Life”
Kirkland “Urged Active Military Members
Who Are Dealing With PTSD Symptoms
To Refuse Deployment To The War
Zone—As He Did”**



Ashley Joppa-Hagemann, widow of U.S. Army Ranger Staff Sgt. Jared Hagemann, wipes away tears while explaining how her husband shot himself to death three weeks ago in a training area of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Hagemann, who reportedly was diagnosed earlier with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, was scheduled to be re-

deployed to Afghanistan and his ninth combat tour of duty in seven years. Credit Steve Fetbrandt

Kirkland was sent home midway through his second tour in Iraq for putting a shotgun in his mouth.

A Madigan Army Medical Center psychologist diagnosed him as low-risk for suicide and he was assigned to a barracks room by himself.

He hanged himself less than 48 hours later.

August 13, 2011 By Steve Fetbrandt, Lakewood Patch [Excerpts]

Tears and accusations flowed heavily at a Lakewood coffee-house Friday as current and former soldiers and loved ones condemned the U.S. military and government for ignoring service-connected mental-health problems.

Hosted by the Coffee Strong Internet Café on Union Avenue in Tillicum, the event drew a few dozen community members to a panel discussion featuring members of the “March Forward” advocacy group, which has been rallying for an end to the war in Afghanistan and better health-care treatment of returning service members and veterans.

Among the seven speakers were four veterans, one active-duty serviceman, the wife of a recent military suicide victim and the mother of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Derrick Kirkland, 23, a two-time combat veteran who hung himself in his barracks at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in March 2010.

Kirkland was sent home midway through his second tour in Iraq for putting a shotgun in his mouth. He also attempted suicide during a layover in Germany.

A Madigan Army Medical Center psychologist diagnosed him as low-risk for suicide and he was assigned to a barracks room by himself.

He hanged himself less than 48 hours later.

“March Forward” co-founder Kevin Baker accused the military Friday of paying lip service to — and even mocking — soldiers like Kirkland, who have suffered combat-related mental illness.

“We’re demanding justice for Sgt. Kirkland...and also for every single active-duty service member and veteran...and for the rights of those in the military who’ve yet to be deployed and traumatized,” he said.

“It’s our assertion that Sgt. Kirkland did not kill himself,” Baker said.

“He was killed by the Army’s criminally inadequate mental health services and by the chain of command who exhibited such callous disregard for his life.”

Baker, who served with Kirkland and left the military in December, urged active military members who are dealing with PTSD symptoms to refuse deployment to the war zone—as he did.

“I wouldn’t consider that mutiny if the military isn’t capable of providing soldiers with the help that they need,” he said. “They (service members) have a unique responsibility to stand in solidarity with each other.”

Baker said drastic change is needed both in the military and Veterans Administration to properly address service-connected mental illness. His group plans to continue rallying public support for that change, he said.

Military officials were not immediately available for comment Friday night. However, two military investigations following Kirkland’s death found no wrongdoing by his superiors.

Yet Kirkland’s mother, Mary Corkhill Kirkland of Indianapolis, said the Army has failed in its responsibility to protect her son and other U.S. troops from harm.

“Rumor has it that there have been at least eight other suicides at Ft. Lewis in the 17 months since my son’s death,” she said. “I just want the public to tell the Army, ‘Your programs are failing.’ Our loved ones are still committing suicide.”

The number of suicides could not be confirmed immediately.

Corkhill Kirkland also accused the military of sweeping the suicide problem under the carpet.

In reading her son’s death announcement from an Indiana newspaper to Friday’s audience, she noted the Defense Department was quoted as saying her son had been “killed in action” and that “the family declined to comment publicly.”

“I just met another wife whose husband committed suicide after the Army implemented their new (suicide prevention) program,” Corkhill Kirkland said.

That wife, Ashley Joppa-Hagemann, was also part of Friday’s panel discussion, recounting the death of her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Jared Hagemann, three weeks ago.

Wiping away tears, Joppa-Hagemann said her husband went into some bushes in a training area at JBLM and fatally shot himself in the head.

The seven-year Ranger, who had been diagnosed earlier with PTSD, was scheduled to be re-deployed on his ninth combat tour of duty and had sworn an oath that he would not go.

In addition to his widow, he left behind two young children.

The Army has refused to give Hagemann a memorial service, his wife said, because it does not want the news media drawing more attention to service-connected suicides.

[Reader's Comment:]

“In Iraq He Asked To Speak With A Chaplain And Was Immediately Thrown Into Solitary Confinement, Stripped Of All Belongings He Might Use To Harm Himself, And Forbidden To Call Me For Two Weeks”

dianne

2:50pm on Saturday, August 13, 2011

They have plenty of programs to try to help soldiers BUT soldiers are unwilling to ask for the help they need because they know that they will be ridiculed and their jobs will be in jeopardy!

My husband avoided mental health treatment for almost a year after he got back from Iraq despite multiple flashback episodes (including one while driving which nearly took us off the road) and night terrors.

He did this because while he was in Iraq he asked to speak with a chaplain and was immediately thrown into solitary confinement, stripped of all belongings he might use to harm himself, and forbidden to call me for two weeks.

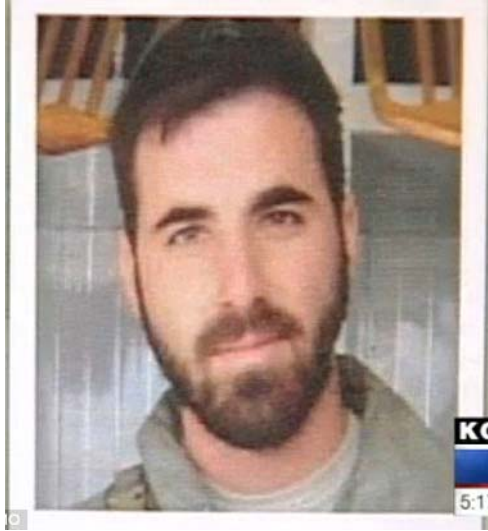
All because he wanted to talk to a chaplain on Sunday.

Its hateful and evil.

I was at the event on Friday and they said it many times “If you come back from a country of death and distruction and DONT feel bad there is something wrong with YOU”

MORE:

**After 8 Deployments, Army
Ranger Kills Himself:
“Jared Tried To Come To Grips
With What He'd Seen And Done”
He Said “There's No Way That Any
God Would Forgive Him - That He
Was Going To Hell”
“She Said The Rangers Never Took His
Pleas For Help Seriously”**



[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, and Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

Aug 12, 2011 By Keith Eldridge, KOMO News [Excerpts]

JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCORD, Wash. - A soldier's widow says his fellow Army Rangers wouldn't do anything to help him before he took his own life - after eight deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army found Staff Sgt. Jared Hagemann's body at a training area of Joint Base Lewis McChord a few weeks ago.

A spokesman for the base tells KOMO News that the nature of the death is still undetermined. But Staff Sgt. Hagemann's widow says her husband took his own life - and it didn't need to happen.

"It was just horrible. And he would just cry," says Ashley Hagemann.

Ashley says her husband Jared tried to come to grips with what he'd seen and done on his eight deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"And there's no way that any God would forgive him - that he was going to hell," says Ashley. "He couldn't live with that any more."

Ashley says her Army Ranger husband wanted out of the military.

"He just wanted to know what it felt like to be normal again," she says.

Staff Sgt. Hagemann had orders to return to Afghanistan this month for a ninth tour of duty.

Instead, on June 28, Ashley says her husband took a gun and shot himself in the head on base.

She said the Rangers never took his pleas for help seriously.

“There’s no way that they should not have been able to pick up on it,” Ashley says.
“When he’s telling them, he’s reaching out”

ANNIVERSARIES

August 21, 1831: Honorable Anniversary: Nat Turner’s Rebellion



Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 21-27

August 21, 1831

Nat Turner, a 30-year-old man legally owned by a child, and six other slaves began a violent insurrection in Southampton County, Virginia.

They began by killing the child’s stepfather, Joseph Travis, and their family. Within the next 24 hours, Turner and ultimately about 40 followers killed the families of adjacent slaveholding properties, nearly 60 whites, while freeing and inciting other slaves to join them.

Militia and federal troops were called, and the uprising was suppressed with 55 African Americans including Turner executed by hanging, and hundreds more killed by white mobs and vigilantes in revenge.

**August 21, 1991:
Afghanistan War Veterans Who
Died To Defeat A Dictatorship:
“Komar Assured His Parents He Had
Suffered Enough In Combat And
Would Stay Off The Streets, His
Mother Recalls”
“But He Changed His Mind When Fellow
Veterans Of The Soviet War In
Afghanistan Rallied To Mr. Yeltsin’s
Side”**



A bus burned near the Soviet Foreign Ministry as protesters and Soviet soldiers argued in Moscow on Aug. 21, 1991. Alexander Zemlianichenko/Associated Press

AUGUST 18, 2011 By RICHARD BOUDREAUX, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

MOSCOW—They died in an epic struggle against Soviet rule and were proclaimed heroic martyrs of a free Russia.

Huge crowds glimpsed the three coffins, draped in the emerging nation’s tricolor flag and honored by its new anthem.

“Our defenders, our saviors,” the breakaway leader, Boris Yeltsin, told the mourners that day in August 1991. “From now on, their names are sacred.”

Today, Dmitry Komar, Ilya Krichevsky and Vladimir Usov are all but forgotten—obscured by deep disillusionment with the political and economic chaos that for many Russians defined Mr. Yeltsin’s attempt at democratic rule in the 1990s.

Russia’s current leaders, who have reimposed a large dose of authoritarian control, speak nothing of the three men and little about the event that consumed them — a last-gasp Communist coup, 20 years ago this weekend, to salvage rigid Soviet rule.

That leaves their relatives and a few hundred stalwarts each year to commemorate the electrifying days when the three men helped turn back the Soviet tanks and change history’s course.

Dmitry Komar, a 22-year-old mechanic, learned of the coup on the radio.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev’s top military and secret police officials, concluding that his reforms would destroy the union, detained Mr. Gorbachev at his dacha and announced that a State of Emergency committee had taken control.

As resistance swelled, Mr. Komar assured his parents he had suffered enough in combat and would stay off the streets, his mother recalls.

But he changed his mind when fellow veterans of the Soviet war in Afghanistan rallied to Mr. Yeltsin’s side. “That brotherhood meant a lot to him,” Lyubov Komara says.

The night of Aug. 20, the former paratrooper triggered what many consider a pivotal spasm of bloodshed.

A column of 20 armored vehicles had moved along Moscow’s ring road near Mr. Yeltsin’s headquarters and met a barricade formed by two trolley buses in an underpass.

Mr. Komar leapt onto the lead tank but fell, dangling head down, his feet caught on the vehicle. As the tank moved back and forth, ramming the barricade, Mr. Komar hit the pavement and was crushed.

Vladimir Usov, a 37-year-old businessman, had been watching through binoculars from his office. He went to the underpass, where he tried to rescue the dangling Mr. Komar. He was shot in the head and crushed under the same tank.

An enraged crowd set fire to the tank, its crew firing warning shots as they fled. Ilya Krichevsky, a 28-year-old architect and Afghan war veteran, took a bullet in the forehead.

The deaths of the three, drawn to the same spot without knowing each other, emboldened the resistance.

Wary of further bloodshed, the coup plotters gave up the next day.



Ilya Krichevsky

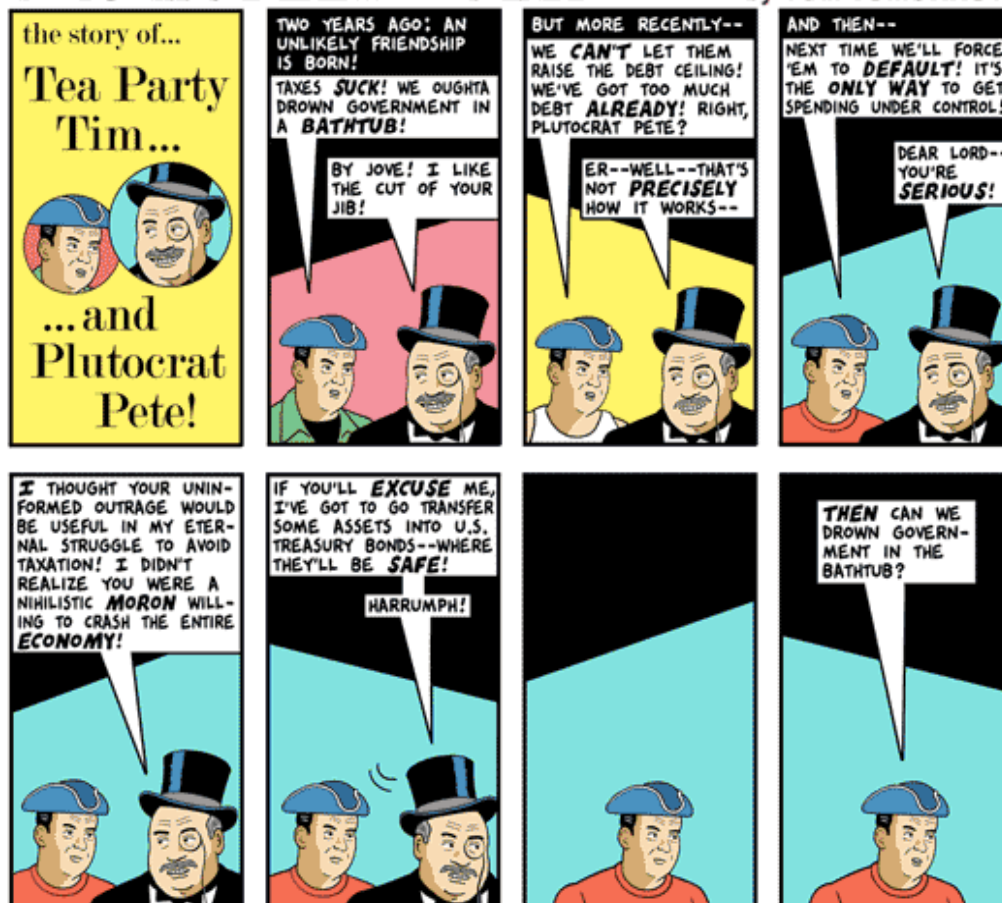
Dmitry Komar

Vladimir Usov

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

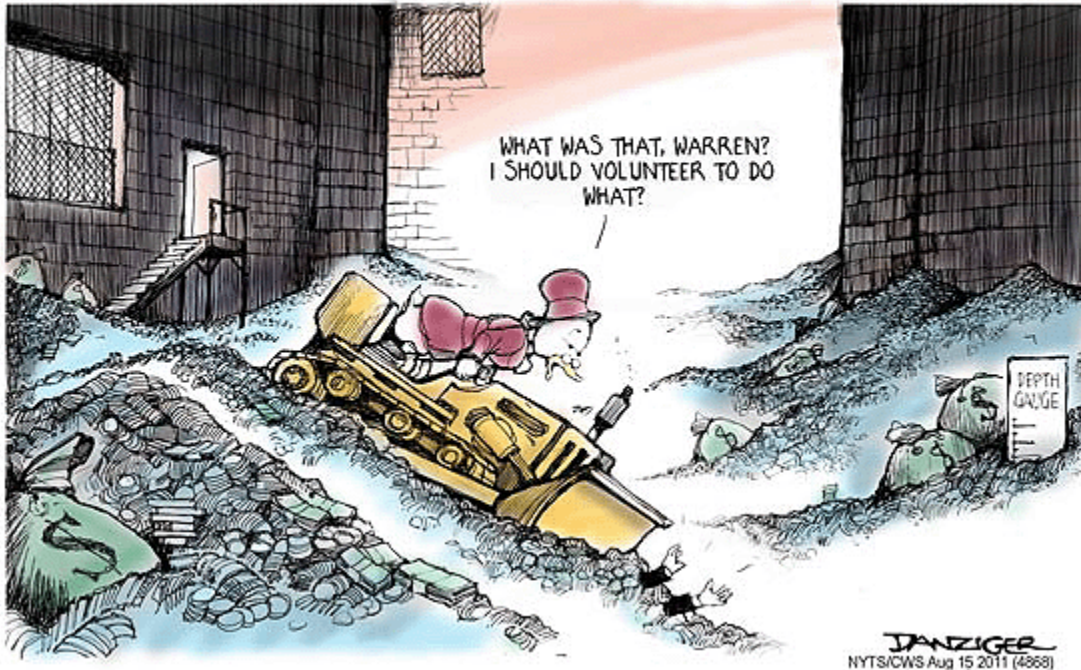
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Warren Buffett Says the Mega-Rich Should Volunteer to Pay More in Taxes



**The Verizon Strike:
“I’m Shocked By The Solidarity
From Other Workers”
“It’s A Very Different Attitude
Existing In This Society Compared To
The 1980s And ‘90s”
“We’re Their Horse In This Race”**

August 15, 2011 Socialist Worker. A member of Communications Workers of America Local 1106 reports on the first week of the Verizon strike. [Excerpts]

Ben Dalbey, Paul Hubbard, Gary Lapon, Bill Linville, Chris Murphy and Sherry Wolf contributed to this article.

ONE WEEK into the strike by 45,000 members of Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electricians (IBEW), Verizon has shown exactly how nasty it plans to fight.

Verizon has launched an offensive of media lies and legal attacks to undermine public support and hobble union mobilizations. Full-page ads and court injunctions against pickets came fast and furious this week, infuriating strikers and their supporters.

But union members are determined not to let the company dictate the terms of this fight. Striking locals are taking a three-pronged approach to the battle.

The first prong is the traditional picket line at workplaces, where strikers heckle and delay management and scabs as they enter and leave.

Second is following the work--literally following scab trucks as they go from job to job, and picketing where they work: poles, manholes, terminals and customer premises.

Mobile picketing has been used since 1989 to harass and embarrass under-trained managers, who sometimes just give up and leave.

Third is picketing Verizon Wireless (VZW) retail stores, which are technically part of the strike--though only 50 of the more than 50,000 VZW employees are covered under the collective bargaining agreement.

Mass pickets at large workplaces have numbered more than 500 workers at times. A lunchtime rally of CWA Local 1101 members at Verizon's headquarters at 140 West St. in Lower Manhattan overflowed sidewalks, causing traffic delays. More than 500 members of Local 1106 flooded the quiet streets of Springfield Gardens, Queens, almost knocking down a metal fence surrounding a Verizon garage in response to management bullying of pickets.

Members have also taken it upon themselves at times to stand down individual trucks as they leave to work.

Replacement workers, who are often out-of-state managers rushed through training, have been seen using ladders upside down, failing to figure out how to open terminals, and almost falling off poles.

Mobile pickets jeer and humiliate them, often drowning out test tones, making the job impossible.

But most satisfying have been the VZW pickets, which have tapped into the widespread anti-corporate sentiment on the street.

Loud crowds numbering 50 or more have impeded business or outright shut down stores.

In New York, the Manhattan 34th Street store had to close for the day because of relentless chanting.

For two days running, the Astoria, Queens, location had to lock its doors to stop supportive pedestrians from holding doors open while picketers with a bullhorn and sound system chanted, sang and made speeches to disrupt business.

In Massachusetts, the presence of CWA Local 1400 picketers kept one location empty for three days.

In every case, passersby have honked, cheered, given the thumbs up or stopped to join chanting and asked how to lend their support. Verizon management's claim that "no one will support overpaid union members" is clearly not true.

"Over Two Dozen Strikers Were Hit By Verizon Trucks In The First Week--A Handful Of Them Wound Up In The Hospital"

The company returned fire at the first opportunity--using the courts to try to stop the unions.

First came an injunction in Pennsylvania after strikers allegedly chained a work location door shut.

Then injunctions in Delaware, New York and now New Jersey. These court orders limit the number of pickets in most places to between six and 50 people, depending on the size of the workplace, and they require pickets to stay 15 feet from entrances or exits.

Bizarrely, some injunctions attempt to ban the presence of pets or children--apparently anything that would humanize the strikers and get sympathy.

This legal offensive will undoubtedly reverse what had so far been an often-friendly atmosphere among strikers and police. Despite supportive sentiments from individual cops--including advice about how to avoid being charged with harassment by scabs--the law is coming down hard on the side of Verizon. And the company is pushing for an interpretation of the law that limits unions as much as possible.

The company also knows that, even with its legal advantages, if the public turns on them, they could lose. So they're stacking the deck with an ad campaign depicting union members as greedy--and possibly criminals. One ad claims that technicians make \$91,000 a year with \$50,000 in benefits and four weeks of vacation--which would only be possible if a worker did 200 hours of overtime at top pay and had more than 15 years on the job.

Another ad offers a \$50,000 reward for anyone found sabotaging Verizon equipment--a not-too-subtle suggestion that strikers are vandals.

But it's management that's responsible for injuring strikers time and again.

Over two dozen strikers were hit by Verizon trucks in the first week--a handful of them wound up in the hospital.

With tensions rising, strikers will need to think strategically about the legal challenges--and when and how to break the law with mass mobilizations and civil disobedience to confront the company--especially if the trickle of scabs increases to a more serious level. Verizon might be willing to take some hits on service for a while, but it could eventually decide to try to permanently replace union members. In that case, confronting scabs to shut down production will be back on the table.

With the company's overall workforce now majority nonunion, CWA and IBEW members need to see workers at VZW as potential allies and future union brothers and sisters. We need to turn the tide back toward a majority union company. Many (if not all) in-store technical workers will lose their jobs at the end of the month when the company reorganizes tech support, so there has never been a better time to demonstrate the benefits a union can provide.

Unions also need to go back to the tactics from 1989 and encourage customers not to pay their bills in solidarity with the strike. Now, with online billing, the company has a rock-solid income--but a campaign of de-enrolling in Easy Pay by the union could make waves. The 45,000 union members themselves are customers, with connections to literally hundreds of thousands of other households.

In addition, we need to highlight the toll Verizon's greed is taking on our families. Not only are strikers losing pay, but on August 30, we lose our health care. Rallies with children and dependent family members could expose the blatant greed of a profitable company depriving thousands of people of necessary care.

Besides reaching out to VZW and the public, we need to focus on the kind of aggressive, disruptive tactics that can win this strike. The outcome of this strike is unwritten, but the pieces are there for an important victory for labor.

“The Company Has Hired Managers Who Don't Know The Work But Only Know How To Pressure Us To Meet Numbers”

THROUGHOUT NEW York City, picket lines have been strong and spirits high during the first week of the strike--boosted by visits from teachers, transit workers and other union and non-union supporters.

Strikers also report that UPS drivers, members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, have refused to cross picket lines, forcing UPS to send managers out to deliver to Verizon stores.

“I'm shocked by the solidarity from other workers,” said Pete D'Esposito, a CWA Local 1101 chief steward at the 13th Street building in Manhattan.

“It's a very different attitude existing in this society compared to the 1980s and '90s. We're their horse in this race.”

Some workers emphasized that Verizon can't claim poverty in the same way as state governments demanding concessions from public-sector workers.

"Everyone else is cutting back, pulling themselves up by their bootstraps," said Kim, another 1101 chief steward. "That's not the case here. It's a prime example of corporate greed."

Other strikers drew connections with the wider labor movement. Nicole, a New York City Verizon worker for 11 years, said, "If you break one union, you break them all. You start shifting the work into cheaper countries. The middle class and the working class are the backbone of this country."

Unlike most American workers, many CWA and IBEW members have ample strike experience, since their unions have struck Verizon six times in the past 30 years. Laverne Sparrow, a 30-year veteran, talked about how "the 1989 strike was very hard--17 weeks--but the union really fought and hung together. We got a great contract out of it."

Local 1101 chief steward Dominic Renda described the 2000 strike: "Technicians set up flying pickets to follow around scabs doing installation work or repairs. They would tell the customers that the person showing up to do work was a scab. Many times, the customers would refuse to allow the scab to do work or repairs."

As in many strikes, workers on the picket line talked to supporters not just about the disputed issues in the contract, but also about the many ways their job has gotten harder and more pressured in recent years. Call center workers complained about management pressure to limit phone calls to four minutes, which often makes genuine customer service impossible.

"The company has hired managers who don't know the work but only know how to pressure us to meet numbers," said Lana, a customer service representative from Forest Hills and member of CWA Local 1105.

"We're supposed to overcome objections from customers to get them to buy more products. Right now, I have a problem with my own Verizon account, but I'm afraid to call because these people have no idea what they're doing."

At every picket line, Verizon workers warmly welcomed supporters and urged them to return and bring others.

"We want people to bring their families and friends to build up the picket line," said Renda. "We don't want people to cross. The stronger our presence, the more likely we will be able to convince people not to cross the picket line. I'm encouraging members to do more than the minimum number of hours."

In other cities where Verizon workers are striking--along the East Coast from Massachusetts to Virginia--they are also finding support for their struggle.

-- In Providence, R.I., a striker explained, "This is a fight for working families--this is a fight for our livelihoods. Everyone should have a union and the benefits we have."

David Robitaille, a Verizon worker who was laid off in 2008, said, "In 2008, they had big profits. Yet they laid off 13,000 workers across the country. They said that with (fiber optic service), they were going to keep the call centers in the U.S. Yet they have opened up one in Tijuana and one in India."

Members of the Rhode Island community showed their solidarity by going to the picket line from a Jobs Not Cuts rally held at the statehouse earlier in the day.

-- At a picket line in Baltimore, several retired CWA members, concerned about keeping their health care, turned out. A 12-year veteran of Verizon walked the line with her 4-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son, with a homemade placard reading, "Union Busting Is a No-No."

Three generations of women from the same family were walking the picket line. Workers were ready for a serious fight, and some said that their managers told them to clean out their desks when the strike began. One woman said that she had been trying to prepare for this strike for the last year by filing grievances and building solidarity in her workplace.

**British Imperial Government
Sending Irish Nationalists To
Prison Without Charges Or
Trail:
“They Aren’t Charged With Any
Crime, And No Reason For
Ordering Them Back To Prison
Except That They’re A ‘Security
Risk’ Or A ‘Danger To Society’”
[Faced With This Naked Dictatorship,
The Uprising Against It Burning
Through England Last Week Was Not
Merely Right, But Necessary]**

[The More The Sooner The Better]

August 18, 2011 By Sandy Boyer, Socialist Worker

AFTER 40 years, internment without charge or trial has returned to Northern Ireland.

In August 1971, the British army picked up and imprisoned 342 men who were believed, often erroneously, to be key members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

They were never charged with any crime, but they could only be released by a committee that met in secret and gave no reason for its decisions.

Today, it is former political prisoners who are being interned.

Their "licenses"--known as parole in the U.S.--are being revoked by a British cabinet minister, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

They aren't charged with any crime, and he has given no reason for ordering them back to prison except that they're a "security risk" or a "danger to society."

Their cases can be reviewed by a commission appointed by the same minister.

The prisoner can present evidence, but this is essentially meaningless since they have never been told why they're in prison in the first place.

The commission can meet in secret.

The only reason they need to give for refusing to release a prisoner is that he or she is a "danger to society."

At present, the commission is refusing to release a republican political prisoner, Brendan Lillis, because it has deemed him "danger to society."

Lillis, whose license was revoked in 2009, suffers from a bone disease that has fused his spine. He hasn't been able to get out of bed in nearly two years and will probably never walk again.

Severely anorexic, this six-foot-tall man now weighs less than 80 pounds, and there are fears that he may die.

But the commission still says Brendan Lillis is a "danger to society" who must not be released.

Another political prisoner, Martin Corey, has no idea why he is back in prison.

He was imprisoned for IRA activity in December 1973 when he was 19 years old. He was released in June 1992, returned home, established a business and formed an ongoing relationship. He became a highly respected member of his local community in Lurgan, County Aramgh.

In the early hours of April 16, 2010, almost 18 years after his original release, the police appeared at Martin Corey's door and took him away to prison.

He wasn't charged with any crime and wasn't told what, if anything, he was supposed to have done.

He was simply informed that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had revoked his license because he was a "security risk."

More than a year later, Martin Corey is still interned.

He was recently told that he'll be in prison for at least another year because his application for release has been denied, and he can't reapply until next year.

Corey is a member of Republican Sinn Fein, a legal political party throughout Ireland.

It is opposed to the present power-sharing administration in Northern Ireland because it believes the administration perpetuates British rule.

This can be used to justify Martin Corey's internment because he is a "dissident republican" and "a threat" to the Northern Ireland peace process.

Marian Price, the only woman political prisoner in Northern Ireland, was interned in May. She had appeared in court on a charge of "encouraging support for an illegal organization."

The judge granted her bail, but the police detained her before she could even leave the courthouse.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland revoked her license from a conviction dating back to 1973.

According to the Belfast Telegraph, the minister said that she posed a threat that had "significantly increased" in recent times. Price is a leading member of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement that believes that only an armed struggle can end British rule in Ireland.

She is in solitary confinement in an otherwise all-male prison. There are serious concerns about her health. Imprisoned in Britain in 1973, Price went on hunger strike and was force-fed more than 200 times. After she was returned to Northern Ireland, Price developed severe anorexia nervosa and was freed by the British government because they were afraid she was about to die. Today, she is suffering from crippling rheumatoid arthritis.

There are probably hundreds of former political prisoners in Northern Ireland who have been released on license. Any one of them could be interned indefinitely at any time for any reason.

Ending internment and freeing the prisoners won't be easy or quick. It will only be won by a movement that brings together everyone who is willing to support political prisoners, whether or not they agree with them politically.

Eamonn McCann, the Irish socialist leader who was one of the organizers of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland, recently addressed a meeting called to support the prisoners:

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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